

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Office of Financial Aid

To: Indiana Student and Family
From: Richard M. Bellows, Executive Director of Financial Aid
Date: August 7, 2009
RE: Indiana State Grant Update (revised 8.5.2009)

Timeline

At the end of July the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) met to determine the award levels for the Higher Education Award (HEA), Freedom of Choice Grant (FOC) and the Twenty-First Century Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year. Before this could be done, the General Assembly and the Governor had to settle on a state budget and the state's public universities had to set their tuition and fees for the academic year.

State Resolution

The SSACI budget was increased by 6.5% for the 2009-2010 academic year. The requests for funding could have easily spent over a 20% increase as there are 19,000 more eligible students for this year. Many of the new award recipients will be students at two year campuses around the state. SSACI had few options and what they chose to do in the end was to reduce the award cap; hence the awards are about 30% less for the 2009-2010 academic year than they were for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Action Taken by Butler University

Butler University understands the burden this unplanned expense puts on families. Therefore, the university staff reviewed ways we could help families fill the gap between the estimated and the actual State awards – while still being fiscally responsible. We are pleased to share that we have re-allocated an additional \$1 million of Butler's budget to this year's Butler's financial aid budget. With this additional money, we are able to fund a portion of the difference from the original grant estimate to the actual grant award.

This was a difficult decision. While these funds were allocated to support other important projects this year, we knew that a reduction of the entire amount would be more than many of our families could afford. In the end, we felt that we had to stretch to help as much as we could.

As of today we have finalized the HEA, FOC and Twenty-First Century Scholarships for the students who are eligible. All students have been notified of any changes to their financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year. As always, if you need assistance in exploring the financing options that are available to help with your educational expenses, please feel free to contact a member of our counseling staff at 877-940-8200 or by email at finaid@butler.edu.